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COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Economic Information

Tangku
25X1A

ORIGIN

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. The company which is now known as the North China Salt Company of Tangku was originally founded by the Japanese in 1938. The main purpose of the Japanese was to produce bromine from the raw salt and use it as an anti-knock agent in their airplane gasoline. They installed eighty large electrolytic cells and ten small ones.
2. The North China Salt Company was organized under the Salt Administration Bureau of the Ministry of Finance. It took possession of the factory and salt pans in May, and during the past few months it has been reconstructing whatever war damage had been inflicted on the factory. Now that excellent quality airplane gasoline is being imported from the United States, there is no longer any necessity for producing bromine and the company is going to increase the production of table salt. The electrolytic cells are now used very little. (These were undoubtedly used to produce free chlorine.)
3. The property of the company totals 470,000 mu of which 89,250 mu are salt pans which yield from 12,500 to 15,000 tons of raw salt yearly.
4. The machinery in the factory is not perfect but is nevertheless in good condition. There are three wells, one used for drinking water and the other two for industrial purposes, which have a capacity of 100 tons daily. Power is supplied by the North Hopei Electric Company. The company is planning to exchange some surplus salt for a Japanese 9000 K.V.A. generator. Coal has to be brought in from the Tangshan mines.
5. The factory produces six tons of table salt, one-half ton of NaOH (Sodium Hydroxide), and one-half ton of "CaHCl" daily. [REDACTED] Note: The source was given the formula "CaHCl" by the salt pans manager. The source was queried about this and his notes seem to indicate that the factory now uses free chlorine (formerly used by the Japanese to displace free bromine from its salt) to make some compound with calcium which source calls "CaHCl". It is believed that "bleaching powder", formed by treating slaked lime (Ca(OH)₂) with chlorine, is the substance meant by the erroneous formula, "CaHCl". Source recalls hearing bleaching powder mentioned.) [REDACTED] Comment: 25X1A
Possibly Calcium Hypochlorite CaOCl is meant by CaHCl.

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6. CHANG Te-ming 張德明 is the manager of the salt pan section of the company. The salt pans consist of 146 tans, each tan being 300 by 600 meters. There are usually ten men employed at each tan. These men are paid an average of CN\$ 3000 daily. The men are paid twice a month. There are fifty workers employed in the office who receive 10% higher salary than the laborers. These fifty workers are also supplied with houses, water, coal, hospitalization and school.
7. HUANG Shou-tsu 黃紹組 is the manager of the factory. The factory employs 220 laborers and forty-two office workers. The average wage for the laborers is 120,000 CMC per month; for the office workers, about 250,000 CMC per month. Both laborers and office workers are supplied with houses, light, water, and coal. There are three shifts, each of eight hour duration. The Labor Union is controlled by the Kuomintang and there are no labor troubles.
8. The main problem facing the expanding operation of this factory is the lack of transportation both for bringing in coal and carrying out salt to the markets. There is an excellent market, and if transportation were available, it would be possible to ship salt to Shanghai, Nanking and even to Japan and the Soviet Union. When the economic situation and transportation difficulties improve, the company intends to add more machinery and so strengthen the company that it will be the largest salt company in North China.

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